APPLE COMICS

Robert Asprin and Ken & Beth Mitchroney

WARP GRAPHICS

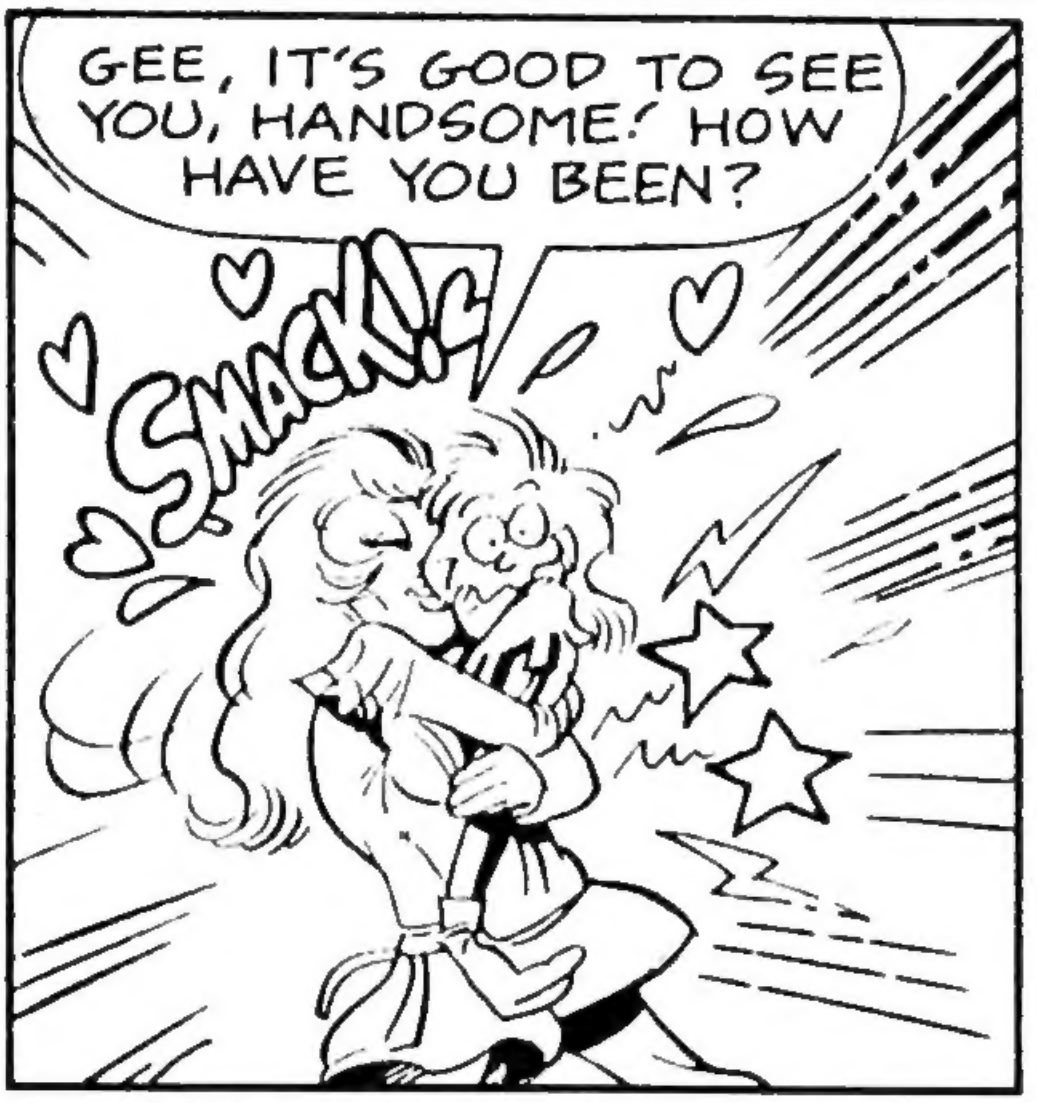
Myth Conceptions

No. 4
$1.95
$2.60 in Canada

HELP WANTED

Too Many Kooks. . .

Our Story So Far. . .



In the dimension of Klah, young Skeeve became apprentice to the wizard Garkin. One day, Garkin transported a fellow magician from the dimension of Perv, the "demon" Aahz, to Klah. As a prank, Garkin put a spell on Aahz which removed his powers. But before Garkin could remove the spell, he was murdered.

As Skeeve was now without a teacher and Aahz was now without his powers (even though he retained all his knowledge of magik), they resolved that Skeeve would become Aahz's apprentice and together they would track down Isstvan, the magician behind Garkin's murder.

Along the way they enlisted the aid of the dull-witted demon hunter, Quigley, and visited Deva, site of an interdimensional bazaar, where they met Tananda, the beautiful assassin/magician. It was also at Deva that Skeeve adopted his pet dragon, Gleep (or was it the other way around?).

After routing Isstvan and bidding their comrades farewell, Aahz and Skeeve took over the maniac magician's former base of operations, an old country inn, to continue Skeeve's education. But Aahz's greed got in the way and after two successive get-rich-quick schemes backfired, they found themselves poorer than ever, with the inn on the verge of bankruptcy.

Things began looking up, however, when Skeeve was summoned to the court of King Rodrick the Fifth of Possiltum to apply for the post of court magician. They decided to stage a role reversal — Aahz posing as the apprentice while he taught Skeeve to act like a powerful sorcerer.

Arriving in Possiltum, Aahz shrewdly gained the favor of King Rodrick's Chancellor, J.R. Grimble, who controlled the purse strings in the kingdom. On Grimble's advice, King Rodrick gave Skeeve the job. But Skeeve's first assignment called for real magikal skills: stop the army approaching from the north — or die trying.

Even worse, General Badaxe, Commander of the Royal Armies of Possiltum (and Grimble's chief rival), didn't want competition from magicians — he ordered his troops that, even if Aahz and Skeeve succeeded, they were not to return to Possiltum alive!

Nonetheless, Aahz and Skeeve decided to sneak behind enemy lines to try to determine the best way to defend Possiltum. After several days of scouting, they had their answer: it was impossible. The advancing army was just too powerful for them. Things looked bleak when Tananda suddenly returned. Now, with her powers, they could travel to the bazaar on Deva and recruit a force to repel the invaders!

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Myth Conceptions™

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Printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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EDITED by RICHARD PINI

DON'T YOU JUST *LOVE* DIMENSION TRAVEL? ISN'T IT *DELICIOUS?*

TANDA, *STOP* YOUR G★#$! SHIMMYING! YOU'RE UPSETTING THE FIELD!

I DON'T THINK WE'RE IN *KLAH* ANYMORE, GLEEP!

TOO MANY KOOKS

ACORN-ING

DEVA CHAMBER

WELCOMES YOU?

HOUSE OF A 1000 CALORIES

NO--BUT I'LL FIND OUT RIGHT NOW!

NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, AAHZ, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?

CCCP

SPOIL THE BRAWL!

LIVE TONIGHT! WENDY O. PINI AND THE ELFMATICS!

APPLE COMICS FEST

ROW 11

ROW 12

THE VISIT OF THE GRAWLIX GREMLIN

THE ORIGINAL ROADKILL IN A CUP

DEVA! YAHOO!!

YOU!!

DO YOU LIKE TO *FIGHT*?

ZLOOT!

GOOD! THEN IF YOU WANTED TO *HIRE* SOMEONE TO DO YOUR *FIGHTING*, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

NOT WITH A *PERVERT* BACKED BY A *DRAGON!*

TO THE *BAZAAR* AT DEVA!

I KNOW *THAT!* BUT *WHERE* AT THE BAZAAR?

OH! ABOUT 20 ROWS IN *THAT* DIRECTION, *THEN* TURN RIGHT FOR ANOTHER 30 OR SO. *THAT'S* WHERE THE MERCENARIES HANG OUT!

TWENTY, THEN UP THIRTY, THANKS.

GLOAK & DAGGER

A FINDER'S FEE WOULD BE APPRECIATED MORE THAN ANY THANKS...

GLOAK & DAGGER

YOU'RE RIGHT! WE GO 20 ROWS THAT WAY, THEN UP 30.

GLOAK DAGGER

AAHZ! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ASK HIM FLAT OUT?

GLOAK DAGGER

MY WAY IS QUICKER!

IT IS?

LOOK, SKEEVE, DO YOU WANT TO LEAD US THROUGH THIS ZOO? IF NOT, THEN SHUT UP AND LET ME DO IT, OKAY?

WIPE! WIPE!

ON SALE CHEEP!

=GLEEP!=

PINI'S HOUSE OF BABES

CREATURES R US

HI FIDELITY

BUY SELL

PLENTY

DEVA

AND NOW SCUM, UH, CHUMS, A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION.

THE ONE AND ONLY RING O' LIGHTNING

ZICK

ZIP

ZLORK

VLOOOOO

ZICK ZORPA ZLICK SNAP CRACKLE POP SCHZICH FRICKLE FRY !!!!!

COME ON, KID! QUIT PLAYIN' WITH THE LOCALS AND STICK WITH US! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU IN THIS MESS!

COMING, AAHZ.

BAM

HEY YOU GUYS!.. WHAT'S THE BIG--

--IDEA?

BEHOLD!! A MODERN WONDER!!

FILLED AVERY QUICK GROW SEEDS "NO MAGAZINE SALES REQUIRED"

SSZOOMZ

WAAAAA

WOOMP!

SSUHHORZZ

WAIT!! I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY DEMONSTRATION YET!

AAHZ! HEY, AAAAHZZ!

SNAP

THUD!

:GLEEP!:

BAM

NO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE WATCHING THE KID!

ME!? COME ON, SUGAR! I'M NOT THE KID'S BABYSITTER!

DON'T WORRY, AAHZ! I'M COMING!

BOOF

NO, WAIT KID! BACK OFF! BACK OOO...

BAM

IN A HURRY, HANDSOME?

GEE, AAHZ, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING NEXT TIME!

NOW QUIT CLOWNING AROUND AND LISTEN, KID. HERE'S WHERE WE PART COMPANY FOR A WHILE. YOU WAIT HERE WHILE I GO HAGGLE WITH THE TROOPS.

GEE, AAHZ, CAN'T I--

POP!

NO YOU CAN'T! THE CREW I'M GOING AFTER IS SHARP! ALL WE NEED IS ONE OF YOUR DUMB QUESTIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THEY'LL TRIPLE THEIR PRICES!

YOU WILL WAIT HERE!!

I REPEAT, WAIT! NO FIGHTS, NO WINDOW SHOPPING FOR DRAGONS--

JUST WAIT!

I'LL STAY WITH HIM, AAHZ!

WOMP!

GOOD! AND TRY TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE, OKAY?

WELL, TANDA--

LATER, HANDSOME! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN.

ERRANDS!?!

YEAH, AAHZ IS BIG ON MANPOWER, BUT I'D JUST AS SOON HAVE A FEW EXTRA TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE IN CASE THE GOING GETS ROUGH. I'M GOING TO DUCK OVER TO THE SPECIAL EFFECTS SECTION AND SEE WHAT THEY HAVE IN STOCK!

TENTS-ROOMS ★ SPECIAL EFFECTS

YOU ARE HERE

OKAY, LET'S GO!

NO, YOU DON'T! I THINK I'D BETTER GO THIS ONE ALONE! THE KIND OF PLACES I HAVE IN MIND AREN'T FOR CIVILIZED CUSTOMERS! YOU AND THE DRAGON WAIT HERE!

BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING ME OUT OF TROUBLE!

AND THAT'S WHY I'M NOT TAKING YOU ALONG!

COME HERE, GLEEP. LET'S SEE, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THE WAY OF WEAPONRY?

WELL, WE HAVE KIND OF A SWORD IN ONE OF THESE PACKS.

FOUND ONE. THIS IS IT. IT'S GARKIN'S OLD SWORD.

-:YEEGH!: I GUESS IT'LL HAVE TO DO. GO AHEAD AND WEAR IT. IT'LL KEEP THE RIFF-RAFF AT A DISTANCE.

AND SO...

WHAT IS IT?

ONLY WENDY'S CHEEZ PP PIES

J.C. PHONEYS

OVER 60 BILLION SERVED

the Yellow Crescent Inn

IT'S A YELLOW CRESCENT INN! IT'S SORT OF A RESTAURANT. GET YOURSELF SOMETHING TO EAT! THE FOOD'S UNAPPETIZING, BUT VAGUELY DIGESTABLE!

SHOVE.

SLAM!

YALL COME!

I'M WITH SATAN

TUG!

?

AH, HEE HEE, AH, YEAH, UH...

UNGH!

SNAP!

YEEOOOW!

BAM!

TAKE YOUR ORDER?

NGAAAH!

YELLOW CRESC

YIKES! N-N-NOTHING JUST NOW.

HELLO MY NAME IS GUS

SUIT YOURSELF, WHEN YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND...

GUS

SPIKE

PERVERT MC NUGGETS

...THE NAME'S GUS.

OSSUM ISM ITES

1.95
1.39
1.62

OFFER
.50

I'LL DO THAT-- GUS.

PERVERT MC NUGGETS

CHICKEN MC MAGGOT

MC BUTTER + CHEEZ

TUB O' MC FRY'S

PARDON ME. SKEEVE-- ISN'T IT?

THIS YOURS?

FLOF!

BROCKHURST! YOU WERE ISSTVAN'S LIEUTENANT! I REMEMBER--

I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED-- HEY! THAT WAS JUST A JOB! BESIDES--I'M BETWEEN JOBS-- PERMANENTLY!

THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING WELL?

FOOSH!

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT. COME ON, SIT DOWN. I'LL BUY YOU A MILKSHAKE AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.

GLIP! BLOOP! FLAP!

UH, THANKS ANYWAY, BROCKHURST, BUT I THINK I'LL PASS.

SCHBLIT!

TCHPLORT! GBLIT! RAP! FLAPP! OKP!

STILL A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS, EH? WELL, CAN'T SAY THAT I BLAME YOU. TELL YOU WHAT WE'LL DO-- YOU HAVE A SEAT OVER THERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

HEY, GUS! MIND IF I TAKE AN EXTRA CUP?

ACTUALLY--

THANKS!

WE'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP!

UGG!

GLOP!

HERE! NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS WITH THE DRINKS! WE'RE BOTH DRINKING THE SAME THING!

PUNK!

TRASH

UMM... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL FOR YOU. YOU LOOK WELL ENOUGH.

DON'T LET APPEARANCES FOOL YOU. YOU SEE BEFORE YOU AN IMP PUSHED TO THE WALL. I'VE HAD TO SELL *EVERYTHING*. MY CROSSBOW, MY POUCH OF MAGIC TRICKS-- I COULDN'T EVEN RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY MY DUES TO THE ASSASSIN'S GUILD!

IT'S *THAT* HARD TO FIND WORK?

I'LL TELL YOU, SKEEVE, I HAVEN'T WORKED SINCE THAT FIASCO WITH ISSTVAN.

LORDS!

WHERE IS ISSTVAN, ANYWAY?

HIT THE PERVERT
WIN A DOLL!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM*. WE LEFT HIM WORKING CONCESSION STANDS ON THE ISLE OF CONEY, A COUPLE OF DIMENSIONS FROM HERE.
AND WE LEFT FRUMPLE UNDER A CLOUD OF BIRDS IN SOME PARK OR OTHER--FIGURED HE LOOKED BETTER AS A STATUE THAN HE DID ALIVE!
THE DEMON HUNTER AND THE GIRL TOOK OFF FOR PARTS UNKNOWN. ONE NIGHT WHILE WE WERE ASLEEP, MY PARTNER, HIGGINS, HEADED BACK TO IMPER. HE FIGURED HIS CAREER WAS OVER AND THAT HE MIGHT AS WELL SETTLE DOWN. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK EVER SINCE-- AND I'M STARTING TO THINK HIGGINS WAS *RIGHT*!
FLOOP!
PLUNK!
COME ON, BROCKHURST, THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* YOU CAN DO. THIS IS THE *BAZAAR*!
YELLOW CAB
THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT, BUT I'VE GOT TO FACE THE FACTS. THERE'S NOT A BIG DEMAND FOR IMPS, AND NONE AT ALL FOR AN IMP WITH NO POWERS.
YOU'VE *GOT* TO KEEP *TRYING*. SOMEWHERE, THERE'S *SOMEONE* WHO WANTS TO HIRE YOU.
NOT VERY LIKELY. THE WAY I AM NOW, I WOULDN'T HIRE ME. WOULD *YOU*?
SURE I WOULD. IN A MINUTE!
OH, WELL, I SHOULDN'T DWELL ON MYSELF. HOW HAVE THINGS BEEN WITH *YOU*? WHAT BRINGS *YOU* TO THE BAZAAR?

AAHZ AND I ARE IN A BAD SPOT. WE'RE HERE TRYING TO RECRUIT A FORCE TO HELP US OUT.

POI NK!

"THE FROG SPEAKS FOR IT SELF."

YOU'RE HIRING PEOPLE?

YEAH. WHY?

THEN YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT HIRING ME!

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!

WHOA, HEY!

WAIT A MINUTE! THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE JOB!

LIKE WHAT?

WELL FOR ONE THING, THE ODDS ARE BAD. WE'RE UP AGAINST AN ARMY. THAT'S PRETTY ROUGH FARE, CONSIDERING HOW LOW THE PAY IS!

HOW LOW IS THE PAY?

WE, UH, COULDN'T OFFER YOU MORE THAN... UMM... ONE GOLD PIECE FOR THE WHOLE JOB.

KA-CHING

KA-CHING

DONE!

WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF MY FINANCES, I CAN'T TURN DOWN AN OFFER LIKE THAT, NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS IT IS!

THERE'S ONE OTHER PROBLEM-- MY PARTNER AAHZ!

HE'S OUT RIGHT NOW, TRYING TO HIRE A FORCE, AND *HE'S* GOT THE MONEY. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT IF HE'S SUCCESSFUL--AND HE USUALLY *IS*--THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH MONEY LEFT TO HIRE YOU.

I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE. I WASN'T GOING ANYWHERE, ANYWAY. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN BEATING MY DOOR DOWN WITH JOB OFFERS.

HEADS UP, BOSS. WE'VE GOT *COMPANY!*

DID I HEAR YOU BOYS RIGHT?

EXCUSE ME, BUT BEFORE WE CAN ANSWER YOU, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT WE SAID.

YOU KNOW, YER *RIGHT!* PRETTY SMART, YOUNG FELLA!

THOUGHT I HEARD YOU TELL PINKO HERE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A FORCE TO TAKE ON AN ARMY!

PAF

THE NAME'S *BROCKHURST*, NOT PINKO!

ALL RIGHT, BRATWURST! NO NEED TO GET YOUR DANDER UP!

THAT'S BROCKHURST!

YOU HEARD RIGHT.

GOOD! COUNT ME IN! ME AND BLACKIE HAVEN'T BEEN IN A GOOD FIGHT FOR A LONG TIME!

HOW LONG IS THAT IN CENTURIES?

WATCH YOUR MOUTH; BRATWURST! WE MAY BE OLD, BUT WE CAN STILL TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT WINNIN' WARS!

WHO'S BLACKIE?

THIS IS BLACKIE! THE FINEST BOW EVER TO COME FROM ARCHIAH--AND THAT TAKES IN A LOT OF FINE BOWS!

YOU'RE FROM ARCHIAH!?!

THAT I AM! AJAX IS THE NAME, FIGHTING'S MY GAME. AIN'T SEEN A WAR YET THAT COULD LAY OLD AJAX LOW-- AND I'VE SEEN A LOT OF THEM!

?

YACK!

COULD YOU EXCUSE US FOR JUST A MINUTE, SIR?

?

HIRE HIM, BOSS!

WHAT?

I SAID *HIRE* HIM! I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TO OFFER YOU BUT ADVICE AND I SAY HIRE HIM! HE'S FROM *ARCHIAH*! BOSS, THAT DIMENSION *INVENTED* ARCHERY! YOU DON'T FIND MANY *GENUINE* ARCHERS OF ANY AGE FOR HIRE. IF YOU'VE REALLY GOT A WAR ON YOUR HANDS, HE COULD TIP THE BALANCE FOR US!

IF HE'S THAT GOOD, CAN WE AFFORD HIM?

ONE GOLD PIECE WILL BE ADEQUATE! I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!

WAIT! I HAVE A PARTNER THAT--

I KNOW, I KNOW. IF YOUR PARTNER CAN'T FIND HELP, THEN WE'RE HIRED! IT'S A MITE STRANGE, BUT THESE ARE STRANGE TIMES.

SHOVE!

ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW, THOUGH--I'M BEIN' FOLLOWED!

BY WHOM?

DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW. HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT. IT'S THE LITTLE BLUE FELLA IN THE CORNER BEHIND ME.

WHAT FELLOW?

BIP!

DANG IT! HE DID IT AGAIN. I'M TELLING YOU, YOUNGSTER, THAT'S WHY I CAN'T FIGURE WHAT HE'S AFTER!

UH, SURE, AJAX, YOU'LL CATCH HIM NEXT TIME.

WOMP!

YOUR ORDER'S READY, SIR! IF YOU'LL STEP THIS WAY--

ORDER!? THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE--

I DON'T RECALL ORDERING ANYTHING!

DON'T BLAME YOU. BEATS ME HOW ANYTHING CAN EAT THE SLOP THEY SERVE HERE. I WANTED TO GET YOU AWAY FROM THOSE TWO--

I'M SAY, YOU SEE!

NUDGE

ASKING FOR A JOB, RIGHT? WELL, UH, GUS, I'M NOT REALLY HIRING--

I KNOW--YOUR *PARTNER* IS, BUT YOU'RE HERE AND HE'S NOT, SO I FIGURED I'D MAKE OUR PITCH.

THE WAY I SEE IT, WE COULD DO YOU A LOT OF GOOD. YOU'RE A KLAHD!

IF MY MEMORY SERVES, WARFARE IN THAT DIMENSION ISN'T TOO FAR ADVANCED.

WE HAVE CROSSBOWS AND CATAPULTS--AT LEAST THE OTHER SIDE DOES!

RIGHT--PRACTICALLY PRIMITIVE. TO STOP THAT, YOU NEED AIR SUPPORT AND A LITTLE FIREPOWER. WE CAN SUPPLY BOTH AND WE'LL WORK CHEAP--BOTH OF US FOR ONE GOLD PIECE!

BIFF

I DON'T KNOW--AJAX IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PRETTY GOOD ARCHER.

I'M TALKING *REAL* FIREPOWER. THE KIND MY PARTNER CAN GIVE YOU.

HEY--LOOK OVER THERE!

YOUR PARTNER ISN'T SHORT AND BLUE, IS HE?

NAW--*THAT'S* THE *GREMLIN*--HE CAME IN WITH THE ARCHER--A LOT OF FOLKS THINK THEY DON'T EXIST, BUT YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF THEY'RE REAL!

PLUUURP!!

TRASH

BLIFF!

TRASH

JUST A SECOND AND I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY PARTNER.

WOW! A REAL GRINNIN' GREMLIN!

HE'S AROUND HERE--

...SOMEWHERE!

THERE HE IS! MEET BERFERT. HE'S THE ONE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!

CAREFUL, THERE! THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO LOSE A FINGER!

I WASN'T GOING TO HURT HIM!

HE WAS ABOUT TO HURT YOU!

BERFERT'S A SALAMANDER-- A WALKING FIREBOMB. I'M ONE OF THE FEW BEINGS AROUND THAT WON'T BURN TO A CRISP WHEN I TOUCH HIM. WHEN I SAID "FIREPOWER," I *MEANT FIREPOWER!*

YEI!

WHAT DO YOU SAY? HAVE WE GOT A DEAL?

I'LL ... UM... HAVE TO TALK IT OVER WITH MY PARTNER--

FOOSH!

GREAT! I'LL START PACKING!

EMPLOY ONL

FUPO!

OH NO! AAHZ AND TANDA!

SKEEVE! I TOLD YOU TO WAIT OUTSIDE!!

SHAKE! SHAKE! SHAKE!

OH, HI AAHZ!

CALM DOWN! I TOLD HIM TO GO INSIDE! BESIDES, NOTHING HAS GONE WRONG! I TOLD YOU HE COULD STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. RIGHT, HANDSOME?

@#$%!!

BAP!

ERF!

YA'LL COME BACK!

OVER 60 BILLION SERVED

AAHZ!? WHERE ARE YOUR MERCENARIES?

THOSE BANDITS! WE COULDN'T AFFORD 'EM! WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE-- WE'VE GOT TO RECRUIT A FORCE ONE AT A TIME!

PAT! PAT! PAT!

THAT'S OUR CUE, BOYS...

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT JOBS!

AAHZ! LET HIM GO! SAVE IT FOR NEXT ISSUE!

NEXT ISSUE:

BACK TO NO FUTURE